

ASSEMBLY, No. 4995

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 16, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman NICHOLAS CHIARAVALLOTTI

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblyman KEVIN J. ROONEY

District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Giblin

SYNOPSIS

Establishes pilot program in DOE to support establishment of criminal justice career academies in public high schools.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/30/2020)

1 AN ACT establishing a criminal justice career academy pilot
2 program in the Department of Education.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. The Commissioner of Education shall establish a five-year
8 pilot program to provide support to school districts in developing
9 and establishing criminal justice career academy programs in high
10 schools within the districts that have partnered with a county
11 college to participate in an early college program. The purpose of
12 the pilot program shall be to afford high school students the
13 opportunity to earn college credit and access hands-on learning
14 experiences in the fields of criminal justice and law enforcement.
15 The purpose of the pilot program shall also be to ensure that
16 participating students are able to cultivate a deeper understanding of
17 career pathways in criminal justice and law enforcement and to
18 attract a more diverse group of applicants who are representative of
19 their community to local law enforcement agencies.

20

21 2. A school district seeking to participate in the pilot program
22 shall submit an application to the commissioner. The application
23 shall demonstrate that high schools within the districts have
24 partnered with a county college to participate in an early college
25 program and that students participating in the pilot program will be
26 able to earn college credits as a result of the coursework completed
27 through the criminal justice career academy. The application shall
28 also identify the high school or high schools within the district in
29 which the criminal justice career academy will be established. As
30 appropriate, the application shall demonstrate that the criminal
31 justice career academy program meets all applicable State Board of
32 Education regulations and standards and other Department of
33 Education requirements for career and technical education programs
34 or programs of study and the New Jersey Student Learning
35 Standards. The application shall include:

36 a. a detailed plan outlining the coursework that will be
37 completed by a student participating in the criminal justice career
38 academy;

39 b. details on the existing partnerships with county colleges to
40 provide college-level courses in criminal justice to academy
41 students or any agreements with appropriate county colleges to
42 accept a certain number of college credits for coursework
43 completed in the career academy;

44 c. details on any partnerships formed with local law
45 enforcement agencies or community organizations;

46 d. the student application process and any student eligibility
47 criteria required for participation in the career academy;

- 1 e. a description of the hands-on student learning experiences
2 that will be incorporated into the career academy coursework;
3 f. a plan for the continuation of the career academy upon the
4 expiration of the pilot program established pursuant to this act;
5 g. information on the amount of State grant funds needed to
6 support the establishment of the criminal justice career academy
7 and the intended uses of those funds; and
8 h. any other information deemed necessary by the
9 commissioner.

10

11 3. a. Upon review of the applications submitted pursuant to
12 section 2 of this act, the commissioner shall select at least one
13 school district in each county which has at least one municipality
14 with a resident population of over 75,000 individuals according to
15 the most recent federal decennial census. In making the selections,
16 the commissioner shall consult with the Attorney General and the
17 Superintendent of State Police to prioritize school districts that
18 demonstrate a need to diversify the law enforcement agencies of the
19 county or municipality in which the school district is situate.

20 b. The commissioner shall provide such guidance, support, and
21 training to selected school districts as may be necessary to establish
22 the criminal justice career academies.

23 c. The commissioner shall award grants, within the limit of
24 available State appropriations, to selected school districts to be used
25 to support the development and implementation of the criminal
26 justice career academies. The commissioner shall determine the
27 amount of each grant awarded under the pilot program and may
28 award multi-year grants.

29

30 4. a. A school district selected to participate in the pilot
31 program shall, at intervals to be determined by the commissioner,
32 prepare and submit to the commissioner reports on the district's
33 experience with and the effects of the pilot program. The reports
34 shall include, but need not be limited to:

35 (1) the high schools in the district that established criminal
36 justice career academies under the pilot program;

37 (2) the number of students enrolled in the district's criminal
38 justice career academies;

39 (3) a description of the academy coursework requirements;

40 (4) the number of college credits, certifications, and credentials
41 earned by students through academy coursework;

42 (5) the use of State grant funds provided to the school district
43 under the pilot program; and

44 (6) information on student outcomes including, but not limited
45 to, academic performance indicators and postsecondary and
46 employment opportunities sought by graduates of the career
47 academy.

1 b. At the conclusion of the pilot program, the commissioner
2 shall submit a report to the Governor, and to the Legislature
3 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), on the
4 implementation and effectiveness of the pilot program. The report
5 shall include, but need not be limited to, a summary of the
6 information submitted by school districts pursuant to subsection a.
7 of this section and the commissioner's recommendation on the
8 feasibility of continuing and expanding the pilot program.

9
10 5. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
11 the first full school year following the date of enactment.

12
13
14 STATEMENT
15

16 This bill requires the Commissioner of Education to establish a
17 five-year pilot program to provide support to school districts in
18 developing and establishing criminal justice career academy
19 programs in high schools within the districts. Generally speaking,
20 career academies are small learning communities comprised of
21 groups of students within a larger high school community who take
22 classes together for at least two years and are taught by a team of
23 teachers from different disciplines. The academies provide students
24 a college preparatory curriculum with a particular career theme and
25 offer other opportunities through partnerships with employers, the
26 community, and local institutions of higher education.

27 To participate in the pilot program, a school district is required
28 to submit an application to the commissioner. In its application, a
29 school district is required to demonstrate that high schools within
30 the district have partnered with a county college to participate in an
31 early college program and that students will be able to earn college
32 credits as a result of coursework completed through the criminal
33 justice career academy. The application will identify the high
34 school or high schools within the district in which a career academy
35 will be established. As appropriate, applicant school districts are
36 required to ensure that the criminal justice career academy
37 programs meet all applicable State Board of Education regulations
38 and standards and other Department of Education requirements for
39 career and technical education programs or programs of study and
40 the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. Under the bill,
41 applicant school districts are required to include in the application
42 several pieces of information related to the proposed career
43 academy.

44 The commissioner will select at least one school district in each
45 county which has at least one municipality with a resident
46 population of over 75,000 individuals according to the most recent
47 federal decennial census. In making the selections, the
48 commissioner will consult with the Attorney General and the

1 Superintendent of State Police to prioritize school districts that
2 demonstrate a need to diversify the law enforcement agencies of the
3 county or municipality in which the school district is situate. The
4 commissioner will provide guidance, support, and training to
5 participating school districts to establish the criminal justice career
6 academies. The commissioner will also award grants to
7 participating school districts to be used to support the development
8 and implementation of the career academies.

9 A school district selected to participate in the pilot program will
10 prepare and submit to the commissioner periodic reports on the
11 district's experience with and the effects of the pilot program. At
12 the conclusion of the pilot program, the commissioner will submit a
13 report to the Governor, and to the Legislature, on the
14 implementation and effectiveness of the pilot program.